

48. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding according to claim 47 wherein the kneading step comprises kneading at a temperature of 120 to 250 degrees Centigrade.

49. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding according to claim 48 including the step of adding one or more of a heat stabilizer, light stabilizer, pigments, lubricant, and filler.

REMARKS

The amendment to the paragraph beginning at column 1, line 8 merely acknowledges that "This application is a Reissue of U.S. Application Number 08/869,670" and as such does not add new matter.

The amendment to Table 7 merely fixes a typo mistake. Specifically, the substitution of "POE²²" with "SEPS²²" finds inherent support in Table 7, *i.e.* the superscript text "²²" refers to SEPS: "²²Styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymer (SEPS), SEPTON 2063TM (a product of KURARAY), styrene content: 13 wt %, MFR (230°C., 2.16 kgf): 7 g/10 min"; thus the amendment to Table 7 does not add new matter.

The basis for adding claims 27-49 is found *inter alia* in paragraph 7, page 2 in the document entitled: "REISSUE DECLARATION PURSANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.72(a) and

§1.75(a)(3)" deposited by Express Mail (EM112847799) on March 22, 2001. Thus, the addition of claims 27-49 does not add new matter.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached pages is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE".

It is not believed that this amendment requires a fee. However, if an additional fee is required for any reason, please charge Deposit Account No. 23-0785 the necessary amount.

Early passing of this application to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Paragraph beginning at column 1, line 8, has been amended as follows:

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This application is a Reissue of U.S. Application Number 08/869,670. This invention relates to a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder slush molding and a process for the preparation of that composition. More specifically, the invention relates to a thermoplastic elastomer composition having a high degree of fluidity in a powdery state and a low melt viscosity, and which may enable the easy release of a molded skin from a mold.

TABLE 7 beginning at column 11, line 1 (and overflowing into column 12), has been amended as follows (see overleaf):

TABLE 7
parts by weight

Component	Composi- tion 13	Composi- tion 14	Composi- tion 15	Composi- tion 16	Composi- tion 17	Composi- tion 18
polypropylene	56	56	56	56	56	56
Resin ²⁰	19	19	19	19	19	19
H-SBR ²¹						
[POE]SEPS ²²	9	9	--	--	9	--
EPR ²³	--	--	9	9	--	9
process oil ²⁴	12	12	12	12	12	12
organic peroxide ²⁵	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	--	--
pigment	4	4	4	4	4	4
Ca stearate	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
phenolic antioxidant	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1
phosphite antioxidant	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1

²⁰CHISSO POLYPRO K7750TM (a product of Chisso Corp.), MFR 230°C., 2.16 kgf): 45 g/10 min

²¹DYNARON 1320PTM (a product of Japan Synthetic Rubber), styrene content: 10 wt %, MFR (230°C., 2.16 kgf): 3.5 g/10 min

²²Styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymer (SEPS), SEPTON 2063TM (a product of KURARAY), styrene content: 13 wt %, MFR (230°C., 2.16 kgf): 7 g/10 min

²³Ethylene/propylene rubber (EPR), EP914PTM (a product of Japan Synthetic Rubber), propylene content: 22 wt %, MFR(230°C., 2.16 kgf): 8.6 g/10 min

²⁴DIANATM Process Oil (a product of IDEMITSU KOSAN), PW: 380

²⁵Perhexa 25B40TM (a product of Nippon Oil and Fats Co., Ltd.), peroxide content: 40%, one-minute half-life temperature: 179°C.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add new claims 27-49:

27. A thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder slush molding, said

composition comprising:

a polypropylene resin,

a hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber,

a process oil, and

an elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power selected from the group consisting of styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymers, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene block copolymers, crystalline olefin/ethylene/butylene/crystalline olefin block copolymers, and ethylene/octene copolymers.

28. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 27 wherein the composition has a melt flow rate (MFR) of at least 5 g/10 min as determined according to JIS K-7210 at 250 degrees Centigrade under a load of 0.325 kgf.

29. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 27 wherein the weight ratio of the polypropylene resin to the hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber is between 80:20 and 20:80.

30. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 27 wherein the elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power is present in an amount of 20 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber.

31. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 27 wherein the process oil is present in an amount of 5 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power.

32. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 27 including one or more of a heat stabilizer, light stabilizer, pigment, lubricant, and filler.

33. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 32 wherein the heat stabilizer is a combination of a phenolic antioxidant with a phosphite antioxidant.

34. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 32 wherein the light stabilizer is one of a hindered amine and a bensotriazole.

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35. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 32 wherein the pigment is one of an organic and inorganic pigment suitable for use with olefins.

36. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 32 wherein the lubricant is a metal salt of a fatty acid.

37. The thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 32 wherein the filler is one of calcium carbonate and talc.

38. A process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding, said process including the steps of:

adding at least a hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber, a process oil, and an elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power selected from the group consisting of styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymers, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene block copolymers, crystalline olefin/ethylene/butylene/crystalline olefin block copolymers, and ethylene/octene copolymers to a polypropylene resin to produce a mixture; and

simultaneously kneading and heating the obtained mixture.

39. A process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder slush molding, said process including the steps of:

A3 preparing a blend comprising a polypropylene resin and a hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber at a weight ratio in the range of 80:20 to 20:80;

adding an elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power selected from the group consisting of styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymers, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene block copolymers, crystalline olefin/ethylene/butylene/crystalline olefin block copolymers, and ethylene/octene copolymers to the blend in an amount of 20 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the hydrogenated styrene butadiene rubber;

adding a process oil in an amount of 5 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power to produce a mixture,

kneading and pelletizing the mixture while heating; and

pulverizing the obtained pellets with the obtained pellets one of a) at ambient temperature and b) in a frozen state.

40. A process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding, said process including the steps of:

Q3 adding at least a hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber, a process oil, an elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power selected from the group consisting of styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymers, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene block copolymers, crystalline olefin/ethylene/butylene/crystalline olefin block copolymers, and ethylene/octene copolymers and an organic peroxide to a polypropylene resin to obtain a mixture; and

simultaneously kneading and heating the obtained mixture.

41. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding according to claim 40 wherein the kneading step comprises kneading at a temperature of 120 to 250 degrees Centigrade.

42. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition according to claim 40 wherein the step of adding an organic peroxide comprises the step of adding an organic peroxide selected from among diacyl peroxides, peroxy esters, diallyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, t-butyl cumyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, 2,5-

dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane-3,1,3-bis(t-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, and
1,1-dibutylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane.

43. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition
for powder molding according to claim 40 wherein the adding step comprises the step of
adding the organic peroxide in an amount of 0.02 to 5.0% by weight of the thermoplastic
elastomer composition.

44. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition
for powder molding according to claim 43 including the step of adding one or more of a
heat stabilizer, light stabilizer, pigment, lubricant, and filler.

45. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition
according to claim 43 wherein the step of adding an organic peroxide comprises the step
of adding an organic peroxide selected from among diacyl peroxides, peroxy esters,
diallyl peroxide, di-t-butyl peroxide, t-butyl cumyl peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, 2,5-
dimethyl-2,5-di(t-butylperoxy)hexane-3,1,3-bis(t-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, and
1,1-dibutylperoxy-3,3,5-trimethylcyclohexane.

46. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition
for powder molding according to claim 45 including the step of adding one or more of a
heat stabilizer, light stabilizer, pigments, lubricant, and filler.

47. A process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder slush molding, said process including the steps of:

preparing a blend comprising a polypropylene resin and a hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber at a weight ratio in the range of 80:20 to 20:80;

adding an elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power selected from the group consisting of styrene/ethylene/propylene/styrene block copolymers, styrene/ethylene/butylene/styrene block copolymers, crystalline olefin/ethylene/butylene/crystalline olefin block copolymers, and ethylene/octene copolymers to the blend in an amount of 20 to 250 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the hydrogenated styrene/butadiene rubber;

adding a process oil to the blend in an amount of 5 to 200 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of the elastomer excellent in oil absorbing power;

adding an organic peroxide to the blend in an amount of 0.02 to 5.0% by weight of the thermoplastic elastomer composition;

kneading and pelletizing the resulting blend while heating; and

pulverizing the obtained pellets with the obtained pellets one of a) at room temperature and b) in a frozen state.

48. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition for powder molding according to claim 47 wherein the kneading step comprises kneading at a temperature of 120 to 250 degrees Centigrade.

49. The process for the preparation of a thermoplastic elastomer composition
for powder molding according to claim 48 including the step of adding one or more of a
heat stabilizer, light stabilizer, pigments, lubricant, and filler.